



MSHA's Accident Prevention Program Safety Idea

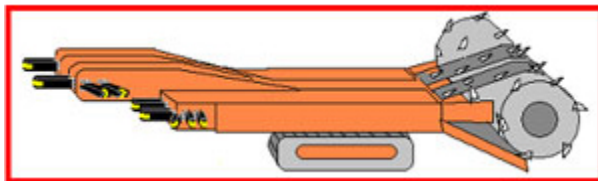
**SAFETY
IS A
VALUE!**

"Mechanical Proximity Warning Device"

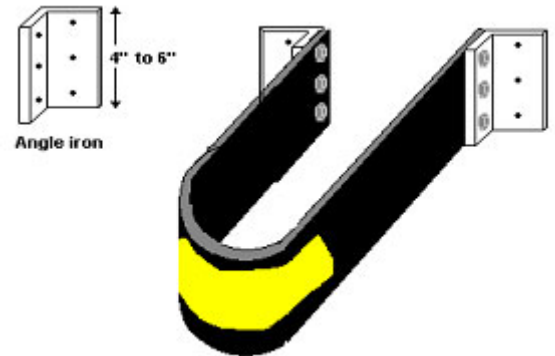
Category : Section Face Equipment and Mobile Equipment

Mine Type: All Underground

In the 1950's, cars were often equipped with curb feelers, a spring or flexible wire that would make a noise if it contacted a curb. This would signal the driver in time to avoid damaging the wheels or hubcaps. Using a piece of 48 inch conveyor belt, 4 to 5 feet long by 4 to 6 inches wide and a



couple of pieces of angle iron, you can make a pinch-point feeler, a warning



device for the corners of a continuous miner. This will give a warning nudge to anyone in the danger area, giving him or her about a two-foot running start to stop the machine or to yell at the operator to stop. The belting is stiff enough to hold its shape but flexible enough to give if it runs into a miner or vice versa. The flexibility also allows this "curb feeler" to drag against the rib or be smacked by a shuttle car with little or no damage. A little spray from a can of reflective paint will make the belt a visual warning device as well. One or two on each corner will help or put as many as you want. In this case, there IS safety in numbers.

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Remember – Safety is a Value that you can LIVE with!